

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9-10 are pending in the application. Claim 8 has been canceled.

Embodiment of the Present Invention

As shown in Figs. 1, 2a, 2b, and 4, one embodiment of the present invention is directed to an image sensing apparatus that includes:

an image sensing device (2) for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject;

a display control unit (4) for controlling a display unit (6) in such a manner that the image of the subject represented by the image data output from the image sensing device will be displayed on a display screen;

a designating unit which allows a user to designate an electronic zoom area (see page 10, lines 8-9 of the specification);

a zoom changeover unit that displays the designated electronic zoom area on an entire display unit (see page 10, lines 9-17);

an electronic zoom device that allows the user to change magnification of the image of the designated electronic zoom area after the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on the entire display unit (see page 10, lines 17-20);

a light-emission control unit for controlling a strobe light-emission device in such a manner that the strobe light-emission device illuminates precisely a position of a subject that corresponds to the center point of the designated electronic zoom area (see page 10, line 26 - page 11, line 4); and

a recording control unit for recording, on a recording medium, image data output from the image sensing device and data indicating position of the electronic zoom area or image data representing the image within the electronic zoom area (see page 11, lines 12-16).

Therefore, in the embodiment of the present invention, the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on an entire display unit, and the user changes magnification of the image of the designated electronic zoom area after the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on the entire display unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno et al. (US 2002/0093578A1) in view of Okamura (USP 6,788,345) in further view of Miyawaki et al. (USP 6,522,360). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action, the Examiner states: the dragging operation corresponds to the claimed "designating operation of the electronic zoom area by the user," and the pressing operation corresponds to that claimed "prior to initiation of a designating operation."

Kowno states, in paragraph [0162]:

The CPU 39 receives from the touch tablet 6A a coordinate value of the dragging starting point "a" and the dragging ending point "b" and calculates a distance of dragging from the dragging starting point "a" to the dragging ending point "b" and an angle "x". Angle "x" is an angle formed between an imaginary horizontal line and a straight line formed between the dragging starting point "a" and the dragging ending point "b" as shown in FIG. 8. Then, if angle "x" is within a scope of a table of specified angles stored in the memory card 24, the image is enlarged at a magnification proportional to the distance of the dragging such that the dragging starting point "a" is displayed at the center of the LCD 6 as shown in FIG. 9.

Therefore, in Kowno, the magnification is determined based on the distance between the dragging starting point "a" and the dragging ending point "b" and an angle "x," which is an angle formed between an imaginary horizontal line and a straight line formed between the dragging starting point "a" and the dragging ending point "b."

In other words, the magnification is automatically determined as soon as the dragging starting point "a" and the dragging ending point "b" are determined. Further, Kowno does not disclose that the magnification of the image shown in Fig. 9 (i.e., a magnified image) can be changed by the user after the image shown in Fig. 9 has been displayed.

The Okamura reference merely discloses controlling the illumination angle of the flash device according to the magnification varying information.

The Miyawaki reference merely discloses recording, on the recording medium, image data output from the image sensing device and image data representing the image with the electronic zoom area.

Therefore, even assuming that Kowno, Okamura, and Miyawaki can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, modify the information processing device of Kowno, such that an illumination angle of the flash 4 (see Fig. 1) is controlled in accordance with the magnified image determined by dragging operation from the dragging starting point "a" to the dragging ending point "b," as disclosed by Okamura, and further modify the information processing device by recording image data output from the image sensing device and image data representing the image with the electronic zoom area, as disclosed by Miyawaki.

In contrast, in the claimed invention of the present application:

- (1) A user designates an electronic zoom area (arguably corresponds to the dragging operation from the dragging starting point "a" to the dragging ending point "b");
- (2) The designated electronic zoom area on an entire display unit by an operation of a zoom changeover unit (arguably corresponds to the image shown in Fig. 9 of Kowno); and then
- (3) The user changes magnification of the image of the designated electronic zoom area after the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on the entire display unit.

In other words, the magnification of the image is changed after the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on the entire display unit.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Kowno in view of Okamura, and further in view of Miyawaki fails to disclose or suggest the "electronic zoom device," as recited in claim 1.

Claims 5-7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claims 2 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

More specifically, Kowno in view of Okamura fails to disclose or suggest the step of “changing, by the user, magnification of the image of the designated electronic zoom area after the designated electronic zoom area is displayed on the entire display unit,” as recited in claim 2.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno in view of Okamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is allowable at least for the similar reason as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

More specifically, Kowno and Okamura, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the “electronic zoom device,” as recited in claim 9.

Claim 10, dependent on claim 9, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 9.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

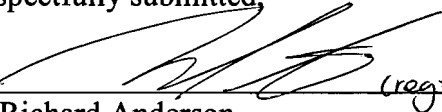
Application No. 09/766,577
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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